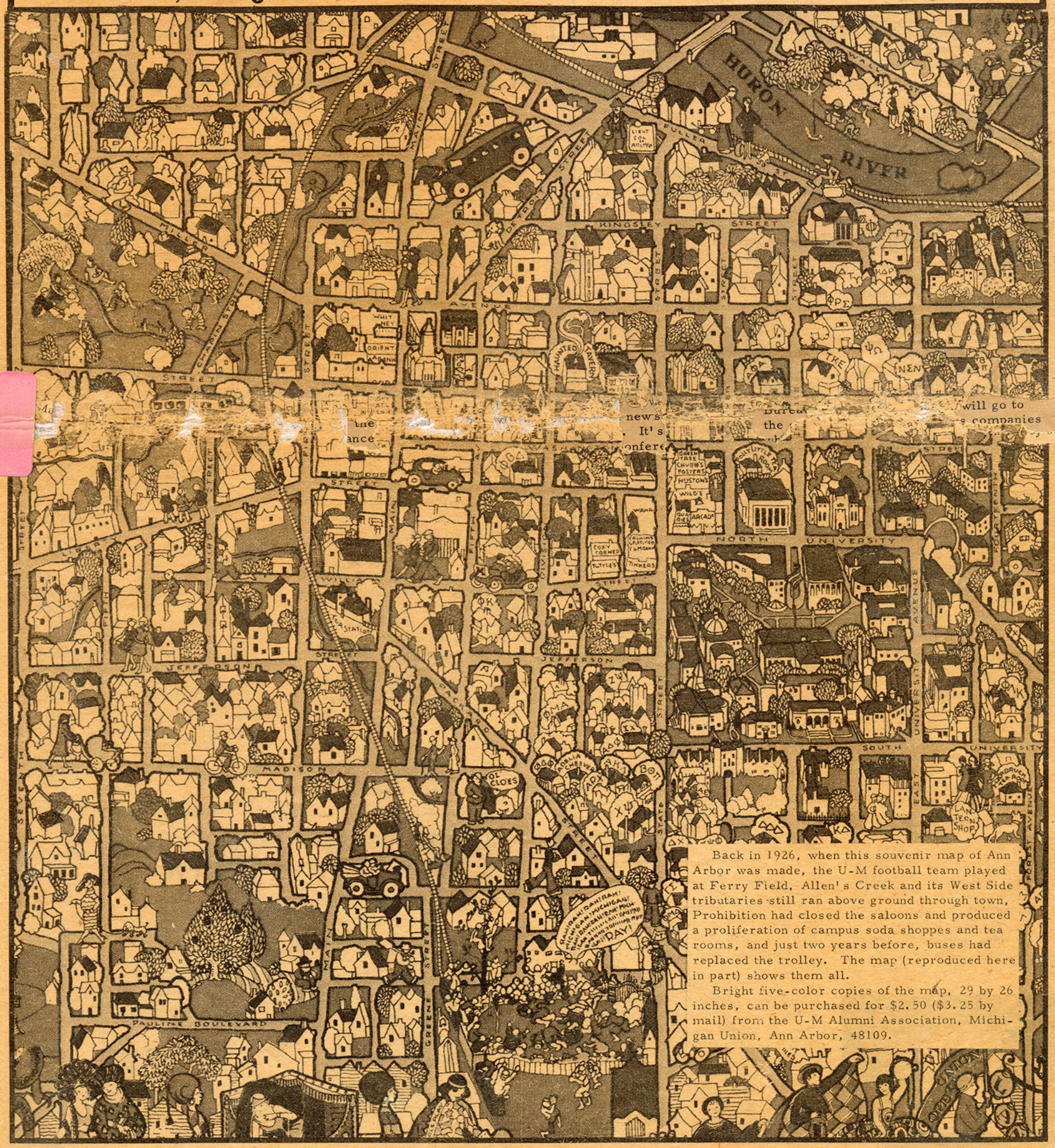
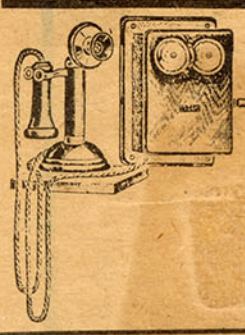
Ann Arbor Observer

Ann Arbor, Michigan | SERVING CENTRAL ANN ARBOR | July, 1976



Back in 1926, when this souvenir map of Ann Arbor was made, the U-M football team played at Ferry Field, Allen's Creek and its West Side tributaries still ran above ground through town, Prohibition had closed the saloons and produced a proliferation of campus soda shoppes and tea rooms, and just two years before, buses had replaced the trolley. The map (reproduced here in part) shows them all.

Bright five-color copies of the map, 29 by 26 inches, can be purchased for $2.50 ($3.25 by mail) from the U-M Alumni Association, Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, 48109.



Update

HVNB May Subsidize Employee Bus Fares

It's no secret: parking in most of central Ann Arbor is tight. And one of the things that makes parking so tight is the number of full-time employees working in central Ann Arbor who drive to work and park all day. In so doing, they are taking up a parking space that can service several cars used by shoppers in that same time period.

A solution to the employee parking problem may be emerging due to the initiative of Huron Valley National Bank. HVNB president Jay DeLay has approached the Ann Arbor Transportation Authority about a system whereby HVNB pays for monthly bus passes to and from work for its employees. AATA has been happy to oblige, so the plan should get off the ground in the near future.

The plan applies to the main office of HVNB on Washington and its campus branch on North University. So far, 12 or 13 employees have shown an interest in trying this new way of getting to and from work.

[illegible]ey things that the [illegible]ent will be looking for as the plan gets underway is how reliable and speedy a means the buses are in transporting their employees to and from work. If the service turns out to be efficient, look for other downtown businesses to follow suit and subsidize employee bus fare.

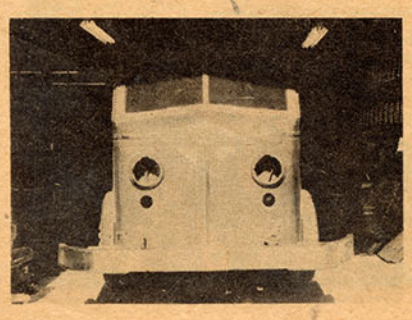
If enough employees are willing to use this service, parking in central Ann Arbor might not be so tight in the future after all. •

The Fire Department Has Bought A 1948 Fire Engine

When the Royal Oak Township Fire Department's 1948 American La France pumper threw a rod last year, they figured it wasn't worth the expense to fix it. So they sold it as junk.

The junk dealer's $250 price tag turned out to be quite a bargain for the Ann Arbor Fire Department, which has thus far salvaged several thousand dollars worth of spare parts from it to repair their three aging American La France fire trucks.

The parts thus far extracted from the pumper's dwindling hulk include a left front fender ($200 new), the heater, the vacuum cylinder ($285 new), the dashboard (with a variety of guages), assorted valves, and the all bronze pump which alone is worth $2500 if bought new.



In its recent budget, the City Council allocated $50,000 as a down payment for two new pumpers. But lag time on fire engine orders being what it is, the Fire Department won't see those new pumpers for another two years. So the spare parts from the old pumper will come in handy keeping the Department's three pumpers going. •

The Chamber's New Committees Address Downtown Interests

Several new committees of the Greater Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce will affect the downtown business district, according to Jim Frenza, the new executive director of the Chamber.

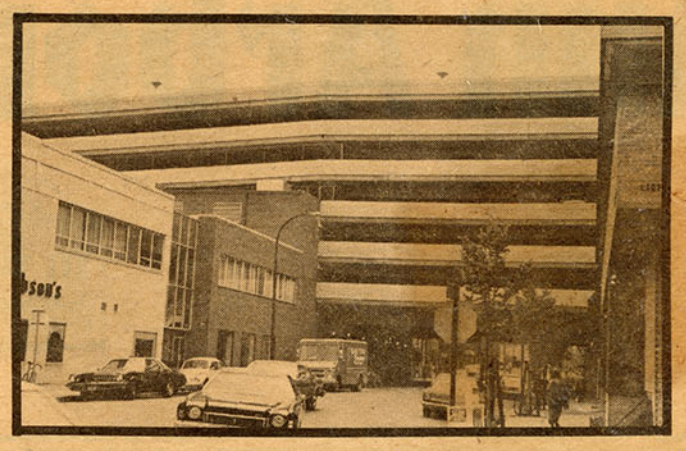
An Ad Hoc Committee will study State Senate Bill 163, which allows the establishment of a Downtown Development Authority. The Authority has extraordinary powers for acquiring land and financing new development. The study group will eventually recommend a position to the Chamber on the formation of such an authority in Ann Arbor. Members have indicated an interest in making the committe a permanent Chamber unit to discuss the potential of the central business district.

Still in the formative stages is a new division of the Chamber, specifically for retailers. Under the leadership of Marty Busch of Marty's Mens Wear on State St., the Chamber will invite representatives of all merchants' associations in Ann Arbor to explore the possible benefits of a retail division similar in structure to the Chamber's Hospitality Division.

The Economic Development Committee, formed just a few months ago, is developing guidelines to encourage growth and development in the city and making prospective merchants aware of what Ann Arbor has to offer.

The new Legislative Committee is spending a good deal of time acquainting the membership with the ins and outs of the super sewer and single business tax. •

Citizen Outcry Has Nixed Special Assessment



The City Ponders How to Pay For Maynard Carport Repairs

The chronic problem in funding needed Maynard Street Carport repairs came to a climax recently when citizen after citizen stood up before City Council to denounce the special assessments levied on them to help pay for the repairs. It is estimated that $800,000 in repair work (mostly involving the replacement of eroding concrete) is needed on the structure. If repair work doesn't begin soon, this cost could go well over $1 million.

Perhaps the most eloquent of the irate group which descended on Council was Father Charles Irwin, whose St. Mary's Student Chapel was assessed $5320 for repairs. Father Irwin implied that he would file suit if the assessment were implemented by Council. He argued that the carport not only provides negligible benefit to his church, but has also been [illegible] by mischievous youths from [illegible] structure's upper levels. Why, he went on, should the Chapel be assessed for repairs, when they weren't assessed for the construction of the structure in the first place? He went on to picture the assessment as a veiled tax on church property, something strictly prohibited by law. He concluded by vowing to resist "to whatever legal level necessary."

A similar position was taken by Rev. Terry Smith, minister at First Congregational Church, who added the argument that special assessments for such city services will tend to sectionalize the city.

Assessed apartment dwellers and campus-oriented stores such as Drake's Sandwich Shop also objected to the special tax.

In fact, even the city, which came up with the special assessment, agrees it is an inequitable tax. The problem is that the law requires a special assessment to assess everyone within a specified radius of the needed improvement. In the Maynard Carport carport controversy, all the structures within a 600 foot radius of the carport had to be included among those assessed.

If there had been nothing but stores whose customers use the carport within that 600 foot radius, chances are there wouldn't have been much of a fuss. (Special assessments are a common means of funding such improvements.) But the sprinkling of churches, houses, and apartments in the area, combined with the proximity of the carport to the campus (which generates most of the trade for many stores in the area) meant that many were taxed much more than they benefit by the existence of the carport.

The need for repairing the Maynard carport, part of which is 22 years old, goes back at least as far as 1967, when $70,000 was requested of Council for repairing the structure. Council has kept deferring the issue until this year, when major structural damage was predicted if repairs were not made reasonably soon.

The major repair expense is for concrete work on the ramp drives. One of the major reasons for this concrete erosion, according to John Robbins, head of Streets, Traffic, and Parking, is the salt deposited on the ramps by incoming cars in the winter.

The outraged citizenry has apparently killed the idea of a special assessment to help fund the repairs. City Council is now considering other alternatives. The two new methods which probably will be used are an increase in parking rates at the carport and a voluntary contribution by the adjacent businesses which benefit the most from the structure. •

Introducing The Ann Arbor Observer

The Ann Arbor Observer *will be appearing once a month, distributed free at stores, offices, and institutions in the central Ann Arbor area. The idea for this newspaper grew out of co-editor Mary Hunt's experience as editor of* The West-Side Neighborhood Press, *a year-old newspaper which has been covering news of the business district west of Main Street.*

Our experience with the Press *suggests that people find it meaningful and interesting to read concrete news about their own immediate environment. Being a university town with many transient residents, Ann Arbor is an impersonal place for many who live here. We hope the* Observer *can help put people in greater contact with the shops, people, and events that touch their day-to-day lives.*

We think central Ann Arbor has plenty of interesting news that is relevant to the many thousands who work, live, and visit the area. This area is an unusually rich mixture of decades-old establishments and fresh, new enterprises, of a large, distinguished university close to the center of a 150-year-old town, of big offices and small shops. It is this broad spectrum that our paper will cover.

Ann Arbor Observer
SERVING CENTRAL ANN ARBOR

Don Hunt and Mary Hunt, *Editors*
☎ (313) 769-3175
502 East Huron
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

Update / Continued

The Regents Say Barbour-Waterman Must Go

U-M Regents have approved plans to raze Barbour-Waterman gymnasium sometime during the summer of 1977. The decision has generated visible opposition both within the University and the city. Those opposed to demolition of the structures (Waterman was built in 1894; Barbour in 1902) argue that more time should be spent exploring alternative uses of these ornate buildings.

The primary factor behind the University's recommendation to

THE GYMNASIUM.

eliminate the buildings is the acute need for new undergraduate chemistry labs. Presently students are being turned away from certain undergraduate chemistry classes because of space limitations.

It is apparently not feasible to convert Barbour-Waterman into a chemical lab.

Further presentation to the Regents of preservationists' arguments is scheduled for July.

The gym's fans consider the dramatic roofline silhouette, the woodwork and panelling, the generous interior spaces, and entrance porches their most outstanding features. Kathy Gourlay has been coordinating preservation efforts. •

New Plans for Funding A New U. Hospital Are Revealed

It now appears that the means of funding the proposed new U-M Hospital will shift from general obligation bonds, which require a public vote, to revenue bonds, which require only legislative approval.

There are four possible sites for the $140 million structure: the public parking lot in back of the present U. Hospital, an area just west of Huron High School, a site along Fuller Road close to the golf course, and site of the present St. Joseph Hospital on N. Ingalls Road (which would be demolished).

The new hospital is still a long way off. Indications are that it could be another eight years before completion. If further problems develop with funding the hospital, it may take even longer.

Meanwhile, renovations of the main unit of U. Hospital totaling $3.4 million are beginning in June. As a result, the hospital's E. Ann Street entrance will be temporarily closed. •

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Ann Arbor Is Being Promoted As a Tourist Destination

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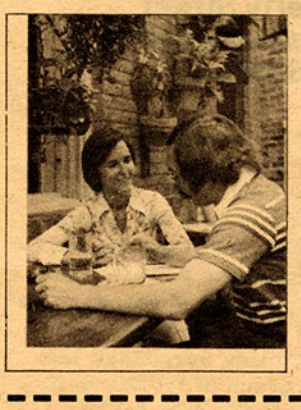

Ann Arbor—a cultural center offering theatre, museums, sports and recreation, but more importantly—romance.

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Sample outdoor cafes, serving cappuccino in the shadow of an ivy-covered law school reminiscent of 16th century Europe.

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The Travel & Tourist Association of Southeast Michigan

Munich, Paris, London . . . Ann Arbor?

"A European getaway in the heart of Southeastern Michigan" proclaims the newspaper ad. Where, you ask? Ann Arbor, Michigan — that's where.

This rather creative view of Ann Arbor will be conveyed in newspapers throughout the Midwest. It's a project of the new Ann Arbor Conference and Visitors Bureau and it's designed to attract tourists to our city.

In promoting the city to visitors, the Bureau is courting two different markets: conferences (they used to be called conventions) and individual visitors.

What the trade calls "in-depth guest history analyses" have been conducted by checking hotel registration cards, in order to identify geographic areas with potential interest in Ann Arbor. These include major Michigan cities, as well as Toledo, Cleveland, Chicago, and Fort Wayne.

Ann Arbor's charms will also be proclaimed over the airwaves. WJR's J. P. McCarthy will deliver six 30-second radio spots during morning "drive time." Total cost for the six spots is $1100.

The ads directed toward the conference business take a somewhat more pragmatic approach. They emphasize Ann Arbor's hotel and motel facilities, the presence of The University of Michigan, and the city's proximity to I-94 and Metro Airport.

The attempt to gain name recognition is the first phase of the Convention and Visitor Bureau's campaign to attract the conference planners' attention. So the ads placed in trade magazines for convention planners such as Successful Meetings and Meetings and Conventions will emphasize "ANN ARBOR" in large type, with the slogan, "People are learning all about it" underneath.

Convention planners who show an interest in Ann Arbor as a possible site can get an Ann Arbor "conference kit." It contains diagrams and capacities of meeting rooms, guides to local hotels' recreational facilities, and brochures on things to see and do.

The Conference and Visitors Bureau has also joined the National Tour Brokers Association, which holds annual conventions where bus tour companies meet with hotel representatives to book overnight stays for their bus tours. Next January Bureau Director Dave Scully will go to the convention to talk with bus companies who have identified Southeastern Michigan as a destination or stopover point on their tours.

All kinds of groups hold conferences. This year Ann Arbor hosted the conventions of the Energy Research and Development Association, the Science Fiction Writers, the Mothers of Twins, many seminars in continuing legal, medical, and dental education, among many others.

A 2% hotel room tax supports the Conference and Visitors Bureau, which is an arm of the Hospitality Division of the Greater Ann Arbor Chamber of Commerce. Holiday Inn owner Bill Gudenau and Campus Inn manager Dick Lotz worked hard to establish the Bureau. From January through April of 1976 the room tax brought the Bureau over $32,000, and the busier summer and fall seasons are yet to come.

The ad agency responsible for publicizing Ann Arbor is Promotional Productions, 401 N. Main, headed by Dick Buckheim.

What does Ann Arbor have to offer the visitor, we asked Bureau director Dave Scully?

He pointed to several features. Culture is one. A Visitors Hotline, 995-7272, informs the caller of scheduled cultural and athletic events. Variety is another. In Sculley's opinion, restaurants that appeal to tourists range from small places like Dominick's and The Blind Pig to Win Schuler's and the Gandy Dancer. And shopping in Ann Arbor, Scully feels, is also unusually diverse.

Finally, Ann Arbor also offers a small-town appeal, Scully feels. It's a "safe community, where you can walk around, at a fair price. We're selling an entire community, not just a big hotel."

Can Ann Arbor be successfully packaged and sold as a tourist attraction? We'll find out in the months ahead. Watch for a follow-up in the Observer. •

Update / Continued

A Planning Firm Moves Over the Del Rio

Renovation work is underway above the Del Rio Bar at 122 W. Washington. The environmental design firm of Preservation Urban Design Incorporated expects to be moved into that space on August 1.

The architectural staff of the firm (Dick Frank, Doug Kassabaum, Rick Neumann, and Mike Quinn) did the design work. The 1200-square-foot second floor will contain a reception area, secretarial space, the principals' offices, and a conference room. A six by twelve foot open well will connect the second and third floors. Eventually a skylight may be installed. The 1000-square-foot third story will be a large open work space for the design staff, with an outdoor terrace. Access from the street level will be through the Old German restaurant building next door.

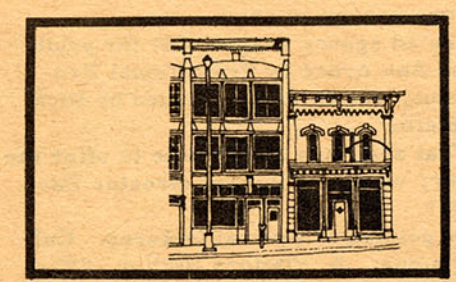
Preservation Urban Design principals Dick Frank and Dick Macias have entered into a partnership with Del Rio owners Rick Burgess and Ernie Harburg to own the building jointly. •

The Cracked Crab Is Expanding

The Cracked Crab restaurant at 112 W. Washington has been issued a building permit to expand into the adjacent space at 114 W. Washington.

The facade treatment, designed by a New York City architect named Bellamy, consists of a wood-shingled, mansard-like awning across the upper part of both buildings' ground floors, with a flat surface for the restaurant's name above. Small-paned windows with a "colonial" effect would replace the plate glass.

Many people interested in the streetscape of which the Cracked Crab is a part object to this treatment on the grounds that it violates the separate identities and architectural integrity of two very different buildings.



The Victorian building at 112 W. Washington dates from 1871. Its decorative trim is essentially still intact. As the Herz paint store for over 75 years it was a commercial landmark.

The 1910 building immediately to the west with the large areas of glass and simple design details reflects the "modern" architecture of the Chicago School.

The Historic District Commission declined to issue a statement about the proposed changes.

Restaurant owner Don Murkey feels it is necessary to unify the buildings visually in order to enhance the restaurant's image. •

The Liberty Street Trolley's Feasibility Will Be Studied

With City Council's blessing, it appears that the Ann Arbor Transit Authority will go ahead and apply for a $10,000 grant from the state to study the feasibility of installing a trolley line the length of Liberty Street. The line would accommodate the 78-year-old trolley purchased last year by a group of trolley buffs calling itself the Ann Arbor Street Railway and Museum.

The AATA request for City Council's approval of the application wasn't necessary to send the application to the state. Their request has been seen as reflecting AATA's skepticism that the trolley line can be installed without at least a partial commitment from the city to help foot the bill. The cost for installing the tracks and overhead wiring has been estimated as from $250,000 to $500,000 by trolley enthusiast Dave Nelson.

In voting to endorse the application, City Council specifically stated that no substantial funds could be expected from the city for the project.

One thing the feasibility study will do is to establish more definitely what the installation costs would be. The impact of the trolley line on Liberty Street would also be spelled out. Furthermore the study would explore ways of funding the project. •

Lucky Drug's Move Is Still Delayed

Work on the future home of Lucky Drugs at 303-305 S. Main has been totally stalled since the end of March, when the Department of Building and Safety issued a stop work order because the building had begun to sway after a load-bearing wall was removed.

The contractor and architect disagree about who was responsible for the mishap, and this dispute is holding up the submission of new plans and the resumption of work.

Lucky Drugs owner, pharmacist Dan Kaercher, still hopes to make the move by September 1, when his present lease runs out. But he's sounding dubious. Recently he said, "When I see someone pounding a nail, that'll be progress." •

The A & P Cleaners Building Is Sold To a Bank

The A&P Cleaners' building at 312 E. Huron, built in 1926 as a showroom to house the city's Ford dealership, has been sold to the Huron Valley National Bank.

Bill Richmond, the cleaners' present proprietor, will vacate the building sometime this summer, to concentrate his cleaning operations in his Ypsilanti facility, called Round Tree Cleaners. Richmond says he will try and lease a site in the vicinity of E. Huron to serve as pick-up point for laundry which will be taken to Ypsilanti for cleaning. So if he finds a suitable location, the distinctive A&P Cleaners sign will still be seen in central Ann Arbor.

The building and land was sold by Robert Cutter, grandson of Henry S. Platt, the property's original owner. Platt (who also owned a farm out by Platt Rd.) founded the city's first Ford dealership back in 1914. Evidently Platt's dealership prospered, because in 1926 the firm built a formidible new showroom and garage, half of which is now occupied by the A&P Cleaners.

Originally the building was twice its present size, extending into the property now owned by Michigan Bell. (That vanished half of the building was later owned by Cutter's uncle, who made it into a bowling alley before selling it to Michigan Bell.)

The building over the years has had a varied succession of tenants. From the mid-30's to early 40's it was a Dodge-Plymouth dealership. In the early 40's, it became a state unemployment bureau. In the late 40's it was again used as a car agency. This time Lincolns and Mercurys were sold.

In the mid-50's a clothes-cleaning firm owned by a man named Meyerstein leased it. Meyerstein called his firm, which which originated across from the Pretzel Bell, the "A&P Cleaners," with letters remarkably similar to that of the A&P supermarket chain. When asked what the "A&P" stood for, Meyerstein's ready reply was, "Always Perfect."

Meyerstein sold the firm to Ben Harold in the 60's, who has since turned it over to Bill Richmond.

Huron Valley National Bank now owns both properties on E. Huron behind its headquarters on Washington and Division. It will continue for the meanwhile to lease the old Sinclair service station on the corner of E. Huron and Fifth to the bustling Auto Entertainment Center. The A&P Cleaners building will be used for parking and storage. •

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Streetscape

A Student Architecture Study Stimulates Rider's Hobby Owners

Architecture students' class projects have a poor reputation for real-life usefulness. Hence the owners of Rider's Hobby were were tolerant but unexcited when U-M students Vic Cardona and Paul Ridley began a study of their building at 115 W. Liberty.

But when asked how the projects finally worked out, co-owner Jack Busch replied with enthusiasm, "It was just tremendous. We are very pleased. It has changed our whole way of thinking about the building."

When the students had completed the study, they presented it to Rider's owners in an attractive bound book. Included in the book were a detailed building history going back to 1893 when the Walker Carriage Company erected it, an analysis of the structure's condition, and recommendations for restoration.

The students showed how the second and third floor space, now used only for storage, could be turned into a retail area or offices. They prepared plans for constructing a separate front entrance to the upper floors and for a rear stairway enclosed with glass to let light into the rear part of the building.

RIDER'S

To comply with state handicapped laws requiring elevator access to commercial space, Cardona and Ridley suggested reopening an old door between Rider's and the neighboring Art Association, and arranging to use the Association's elevator. Originally the communicating door allowed buggies to move from one part of the Walker factory to another.

Now Busch and co-owner Bob Sattler are thinking of moving into the second floor themselves. "This stimulated us and got us off dead center," Busch said.

The project was done for Kingsbury Marzolf's class in historic preservation at the University of Michigan College of Architecture and Urban Planning. •

How to Eliminate That Shiny Aluminum Look

Shiny aluminum doesn't suit the weathered surfaces and painted trim of older buildings. You may not notice it consciously, but a bright, modern-looking aluminum screen door or storm window clashes with the look of structures more than a few decades old.

If you have shiny aluminum on your old building or house, there is a solution other than replacing it. Contrary to what many people believe, aluminum can be painted, but painting aluminum can be tricky if you don't do it right. Bob Anderson of Anderson's Paints gave us some advice.

First, make such the surface is clean. Because aluminum surfaces don't chalk and clean themselves like painted or masonry surfaces do, they tend to hold more dirt. So wash down the surface thoroughly with water and either ammonia or Soilax or Spic-and-Span. If the surface is pitted, put an oil exterior primer on the outside.

Anderson says wood stains are not good on aluminum. Stains work by the principle of penetration, but they can't penetrate aluminum.

Special paint for aluminum is "a lot of nonsense," according to Anderson. Paints for aluminum exteriors are simply relabeled regular paint, not specially formulated. "We've had more success with oil-base exterior paints on aluminum than with latex. But both work. Latex is fussier about how clean the surface is," Anderson says. •

The First Baptist Church Gets a New Steeple

After hours of frustrating effort, workers finally secured the new 3000 lb. copper-cladded steeple to the First Baptist Church on East Huron. When the workers tried to set the steeple on the specially made metal base on top of the church, they discovered that it was too tight a fit. So they had to have the base trimmed to fit the steeple.

The new tower replaces the original tower of the 98-year-old church which was removed two years ago when the roof was replaced.

The copper on the new steeple will eventually turn brown and then green. It was designed by Fry-Peters, Associates. •

The Campus Inn Offers Light Meals Al Fresco

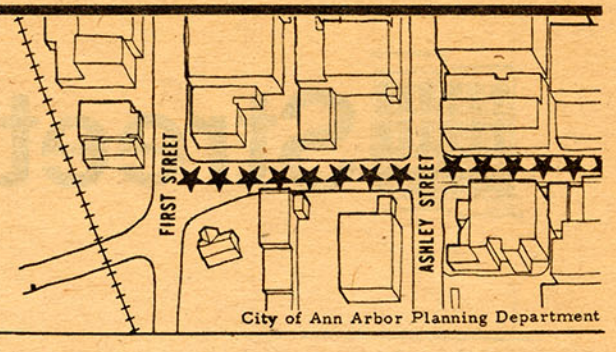
The Campus Inn's "Street Scene" lobby lounge for drinks and light meals has expanded outdoors for the summer. Eight tables with director's chairs and yellow-and-blue umbrellas are out on the Huron Street Terrace. •

IT'S GREAT TO BE DOWNTOWN!

(as well as in Whitmore Lake, Dexter, the Medical Center, Maple Village, Scio Township, and on campus, Packard, Plymouth Road, Eisenhower Boulevard and Carpenter Road.)

Ann Arbor Bank and Trust Company

Focus: Liberty Street



The Liberty Corridor Emerges

Liberty Street has always been the chief path linking the campus and State Street commercial areas with downtown. Now it is becoming something more than that: a focus of interest and activity itself. The recent developments on Liberty promise to give an added vitality to central Ann Arbor.

Liberty will provide an attractive promenade, encouraging visitors to central Ann Arbor to expand the scope of their visit. It should also increase the University population's interest in the downtown area.

First Martin's Michigan Square Is Leasing

First Martin Corporation of Ann Arbor has announced plans to erect a four-story multi-purpose building close to the midpoint of the Liberty Street corrider. All the necessary approvals for construction have been obtained.

Each floor of the building, designed by David Osler, will have about 6,500 square feet of floor space. The two top floors will be leased as office space. The second story will probably be used for a restaurant. It will feature a cantilevered greenhouse-like extension allowing diners to look out over the future Division/Liberty Park as well as the Kempf House.

The first floor of the building will house smaller shops. This floor will be six feet below ground level, but the landscaping will provide full space for windows.

First Martin is now combing the country to find established, top-quality retail stores as tenants for this first story.

The proposed Michigan Square building caused a stir when it was found that the existing four inch water main could not supply enough pressure to operate the automatic sprinkler system fire insurance requires. Unlike suburban developers, downtown developers commonly assume that they don't have to finance basic services (water, sewer, etc.). In this case, First Martin and other property owners who intensify use may have to pay a special assessment; the city administrator hasn't yet decided. Atwell-Hicks Engineering is drawing up plans for a new 12 inch Liberty Street water main from Main to Division streets. Then cost estimates will be made. •

Liberty Street's Best Old Buildings Will Be Studied

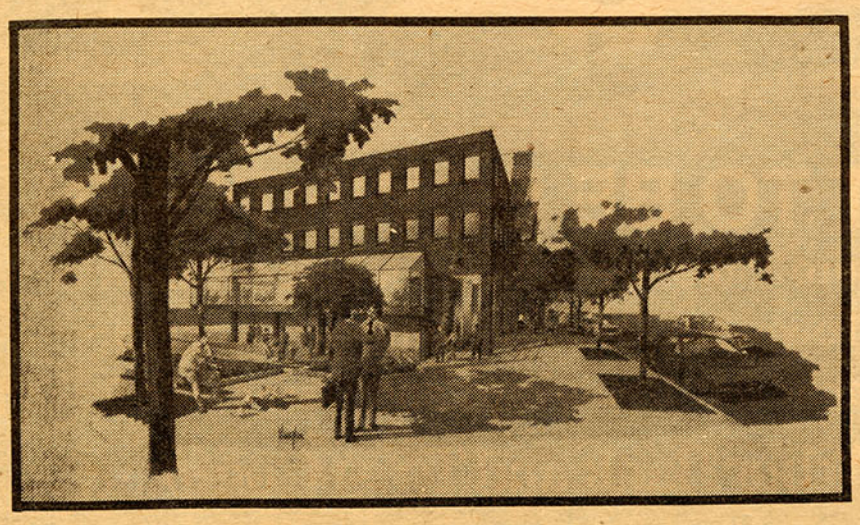
What will happen to East Liberty Street's fine old buildings now that the Federal Building is going up, Michigan Square has been approved, and the street is finally being more intensively developed as a pedestrian link between the campus and Main St.? Can the Michigan Theater, the Darling Block at Liberty and Fifth, and several handsome Greek Revival and Queen Anne houses be conserved without impeding the area's economic vitality?

Ann Arbor Tomorrow has just received a $10,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to conduct a planning and design study which would investigate this problem. The Ann Arbor Bicentennial Commission cosponsored the grant; the City Planning Department and Professors Kingsbury Marzolf and Gerhard Olving at the U-M College of Architecture and Urban Planning will participate in the project.

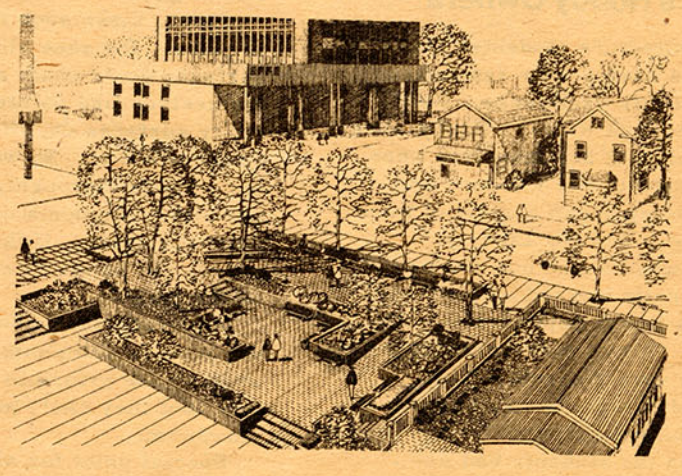
"We need coordinated, integrated planning and design guidelines to preserve these buildings and the character of the adjoining neighborhoods," said Ann Arbor Tomorrow Director Guy Larcom. "Those guidelines must also permit Liberty to function and develop as an integral passageway in the downtown business area."

The study would try to come up with designs for economically viable alternative uses of historic buildings. It would also investigate financial incentives for owners to restore and preserve their buildings under programs such as low-interest loans or tax abatements.

Organizational arrangements are being made with all interested parties. The required $10,000 matching funds are expected to consist of "in-kind services," such as Ann Arbor Tomorrow released staff time and other donated supplies and services. •



Green Space, Complexity and Comfortable Seats



This Park Will Have What People Want

Parks are for people, so it's nice to hear that the new park which will go in next to the historic Kempf House and the new Michigan Square Building has been designed with attention given to what people in the area want in a park. Landscape architects Terry Brown and Chuck Cares of the U-M were hired by the city to design the park. They incorporated the results of a survey of people in the area into their design.

The person responsible for finding out what people in the vicinity would like in their corner park was Rachel Kaplan. Kaplan is a U-M psychologist who for some years now has been refining techniques for obtaining people's perceptions of their environment. She used her skills to poll 181 people in the park site area. What she found, in part, is that people like lots of green, that they want comfortable seats (benches with backs were preferred), and that they want a park with some amount of complexity or unpredictability.

The Brown-Cares design reflects those wishes and at the same time consciously complements the adjacent Kempf House and proposed Michigan Square building.

The green that people want is provided by many kinds of trees (including locust, linden, and crabapple) and shrubs (privet, burning bush, and yews, among others). Complexity is achieved in various ways: by a choice of two different visual textures of terrace tiles (see drawing of the park), by having both shady and sunny areas, and by having more than one level for the park. (Contrast in your mind a perfectly flat 0.2 acre corner park.)

English ivy will be used as a ground cover. Why isn't grass included in the plan? Except with extraordinary maintainance procedures, Cares explained, grass won't stay alive in such an actively used area.

Brown and Cares speak of the 120 year old Kempf House as the "sculpture" in relation to which the park is oriented. Rather than using a fountain or sculpture as a focal point within the park, they have set the park right up against the Kempf property, with plantings arranged so that park users can get a good view of it.

The Kempf House is a city-owned hisotrical museum open on week-ends from 2 to 5 p.m. It also serves as home for Ann Arbor's local historian, Wystan Stevens. The historically accurate property lines of the property will be maintained by a small picket fence.

It was coincidental that the funding to begin this park came along at the same time First Martin Corporation decided to build Michigan Square. But the coincidence worked to the advantage of both the architects of the park and the architect of the building, David Osler. By taking into consideration each other's basic design, a continuity of plantings, walkways, and materials has been established.

Tom Raynes of the Parks Department says that demolition of the existing buildings should begin in late July. Initially the area will be smoothed off until construction of the park begins, hopefully early next summer. •

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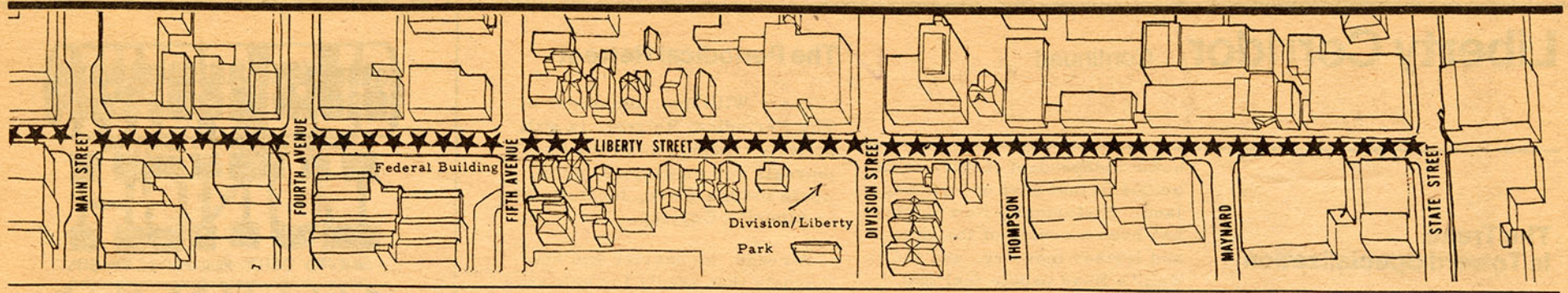


The New Post Office Will Offer Better Service

Significantly increased postal services are in store for central Ann Arbor in the spring of 1977 when the new Federal Building opens. The new post office, which replaces the present 67-year-old post office on N. Main and Catherine, will take up the eastern half of the ground floor of the building (approximately 12,000 square feet of space). Improved services over the present Main St. office will include:

- 1200 rental mail boxes (compared with 600 at the Main St. office).
- 9 parking spaces set aside exclusively for mail patrons (none have been available at the Main St. office).
- lobby service will be accessible 24 hours a day. The lobby will have the same type of self-service postal unit as is found at the Stadium post office. This unit provides 24-hour access (via vending machines) to stamps, envelopes, and post cards, as well as do-it-yourself package mailing capabilities.
- during work hours, there will be five full-time tellers on duty.

The new post office will employ the same number of persons (65) that now work in the Main St. office.

The Postmaster Ponders The Arcade Branch's Fate

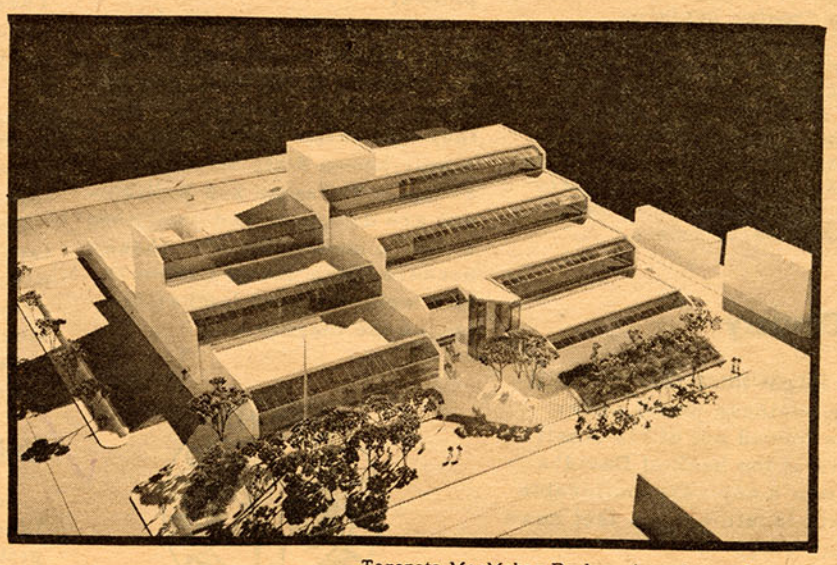
The opening in less than a year of the new postal facility places a difficult decision on the shoulders of Ann Arbor postmaster Richard Schneeberger: whether or not to close down the small Nickels Arcade post office which has served State Street area patrons since 1918 (the year Nickels Arcade was built).

It's not simply nostalgia that makes people want the Arcade office to stay open. It is a real convenience for State Street area merchants, customers, and University personnel.

Nonetheless, the new Federal Building post office will be only three blocks away from the Arcade office. Schneeberger estimates that elimination of the Arcade office could save the postal service $80,000 to $100,000 a year. This figure is based on the cost of leasing the Nickels Arcade site plus greater efficiency produced by handling central Ann Arbor mail service from a single location.

Toward the end of this year, a transaction count at both the Main St. and Arcade offices will be made to determine whether there is sufficient need to continue the Arcade service. •

Due to Open in Early Spring



Tarapata MacMahon Paulsen Associates, Inc.

This is a model of the Federal Building, designed by Tarapata MacMahon Paulson Associates of Bloomfield Hills

The Federal Building Is Designed To Fit In

A striking new shape is emerging along Liberty Street — the $4 million Federal Building, which will house a new post office and a variety of other governmental agencies. But the tiered shape is not designed just to be striking. It is a carefully-chosen means of making a 52,000-square-foot, four-story building harmonize in scale with its smaller neighboring buildings.

The General Services Administration (GSA), which is responsible for providing office space for federal agencies, has has at times been prone to build large, monolithic structures which ignore the scale of surrounding architecture. To avoid such an error for Ann Arbor's proposed building, the GSA's Dick McGinnis of Chicago met with Ann Arbor's mayor and planning director back in 1973 to get their suggestions about a suitable site and design.

Four designs were eventually created and submitted to an impartial jury of experts. The winning design, a four-story building, has several appealing characteristics. A tree-filled courtyard, 80-feet deep, will extend along Liberty Street. The new structure will be only one story high next to the courtyard, with tiers back to the full four-story height. In such a manner, the four-story height won't stand in direct contrast with the other, lower buildings on Liberty Street.

The building's receding terraced form indicates the glassed galleries which help light the interior. The north orientatio of these windows admits cool natural light to the interior through a system of double-glazed skylights. The office are consists of open, flexible space.

Two design features result in signifi cant energy savings, according to the GSA. Glass on the warmer south side was omitted, keeping air conditioning costs down. High insulating value was designed into the wall and roof construc tions.

The exterior of the building will be quarry tile. This is said to be the firs such use of such tile, which comes fron Kentucky, in Ann Arbor.

GSA anticipates that 300 government employees will occupy the building. The new post office will take up 12,000 of the 52,396 square feet of interior space In addition, the building will house the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, the FBI, HEW, Defense Investigative Service, Civil Service Commission, Department of Labor, Defense Supply Agency, the local congressional office, and (eventually) a district court.

There will only be 90 parking spaces available. Almost all of these spaces will be taken by government vehicles, so parking in the area will become mor precious than ever.

The construction chief of the project Ray Otti, of Barton-Malow, Detroit, reports that they are one month ahead of schedule at this point. The building should be closed in by winter and completed by spring of 1977. •

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Liberty Corridor/ Continued

The Trend Is Toward Specialization

A bookbindery. A record store. A copying center. A periodicals store. A leather apparel shop. All within a single building, the Michigan Theater Building.

John Leidy's select gift shop has been there for years. But when The Marilyn Shoppe closed, and David's Books came and went, a huge space opened up, and several new, small, specialized businesses snatched it up. Here's an introduction to these relative newcomers on Liberty Street.

Bill's Bindery

You might think that Bill Gillmore's business would suffer when he moved out of his small quarters at the back of David's Books into a not-very-noticeable basement location a few feet down down Liberty.

The opposite is the case: business has never been better. Part of the reason, Bill explained, is the credibility problem he had while working out of David's. "I only had room for my sales counter. My bookbinding workshop was out in my garage. Therefore people couldn't see that I really worked on their books. Now all of it's together, sales area and workshop, and people can see my equipment and the work I do." Indeed, his spatious new underground quarters are filled with bookbinding and book-mending paraphernalia, lending an authenticity to his art.

Another reason for Bill's increased business lies right across the hallway from his entrance: Sylvia's Studio of Dance. "Parents who are interested in having their kids learn ballet are often people who are interested in books," Bill said. "They've given me a lot of business."

Bill then pointed out some of the books he was mending or rebinding: an old country atlas, an 18th-century folio edition of Cook's Voyages, a book called Chronicles of Kings of England published in 1696.

Old family Bibles are a frequent job for rebinding, as are old children's books and musical scores. Binding doctoral theses makes up about 20%-30% of Bill's workload. •

Ram's Head Leather Works

Lawyer Kent Whiteman and U-M research assistant Tracey Williamson had already been planning to start a leather goods store, when a desirable location on Liberty Street in the Michigan Theater Building opened up in February. They seized the opportunity, and, after three feverish weeks of preparations, Ram's Head Leather Works opened in March.

A third partner in the enterprise, Jim Vilkitis, lives in Amherst, Mass. He's a natural resources consultant who runs a leather workshop for some independent leather craftspeople in that part of New England. Historically New England has been a center of the shoe and leather industry, and the Ram's Head people feel that New England leatherworkers supply goods of a consistently higher quality at reasonable prices.

Ram's Head is setting up a local leather workshop in the old vaudeville dressing rooms of the Michigan Theater. Together with tailor Oscar Susluoglu, a well-known State Street personage, Whiteman and Williamson are designing and producing a men's leather blazer, chosen because there doesn't seem to be a well-designed leather blazer on the market now.

The Ram's Head symbol comes from Whiteman's interest in bighorn sheep. A photograph he took of one out West served as the basis of the Ram's Head logo, which was designed by Carol Taylor. Imago on State Street executed the stained glass window which incorporates this logo.

Interesting old objects give the store's interior a mellow ambiance: old barn beams, wooden eskimo skis, a 100-year-old Wells Fargo trunk, and old church pews, which are for trying on leather footwear. •

The Periodical Retreat

Jerry Williams, the owner of The Periodical Retreat, is still actively tracking down the best journals and magazines in the world for his store, located within Albert's Copying.

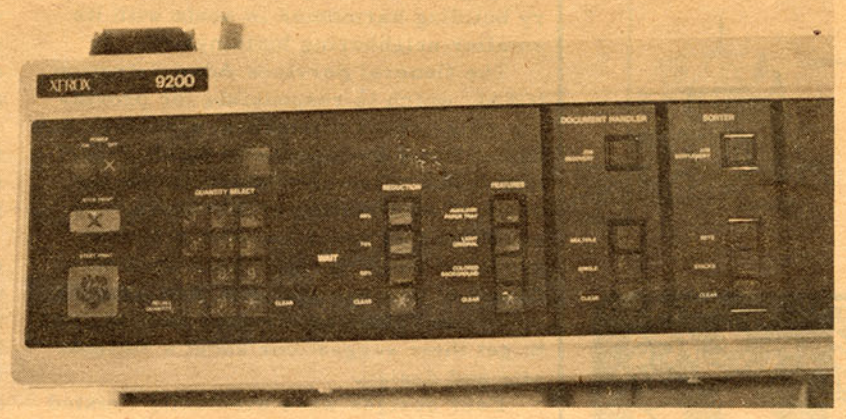
Already he carries 250 new journals that aren't for sale anywhere else in town. Eighty of these journals aren't even on sale anywhere else in the world. These are the academic and technical journals sold exclusively by subscription to professionals. Exclusively by subscription, that is, until Williams persuaded publishers of these periodicals to sell to him as a retailer.

The Periodical Retreat specializes in academic, art, film, dance, music, and plastic arts periodicals, with additional well-stocked shelves of alternative press magazines, journals, and newspapers. •

Schoolkids Records

Schoolkids Records, 523 E. Liberty, is the latest of what is getting to be a cluster of record stores at the eastern end of Liberty. In talking to Schoolkid's owner, Stephen Bergman, we learned that there are 22 Schoolkid Record Stores in the South and Midwest. Each is independently owned and managed, but buys all its records from the same wholesaler in Columbus, Ohio and Atlanta, Georgia. The records are offered at a substantial discount ($3.99 a disk).

Each of the stores is near a college campus and the records Schoolkids carries lean toward the college trade: rock, jazz, folk, bluegrass, country. Bergman's personal taste is for jazz, and he plans to develop the best selection of jazz records in town. •



The console of the Xerox 9200, the new copier of Albert's Copying. It can print two copies a second.

Albert's Copying

Albert's Copying is going to the top of the line — to the giant Xerox 9200 copier — as it expands to fill the space next to Ram's Head Leather Works.

The 9200, which zips out 7200 copies an hour and collates as well, costs $1500 a month to rent plus a percentage of every copy made over 300,000 a month. Thus the Albert's Copying staff, who have gained a reputation in the area for giving friendly service (even when the order amounts to only a few cents), will have plenty to keep them busy. They will also keep on hand their other two Xerox machines.

Moving in with Albert's Copying will be The Periodical Retreat. •

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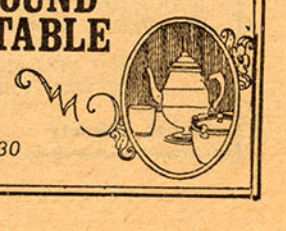


Feature

Bookstores Get Bargains at Bankruptcy Auction

Kaaren Klingel

Auctioneer Lloyd Braun (with raised hands) is taking a winning bid on a box of books as his partner Jerry Helmer inspects the next box. David (in the rear wearing a striped shirt) is discussing the event with friends.

David's Books: 1974–1976

A Colorful Chapter In Bookselling Comes to a Close

By DON HUNT

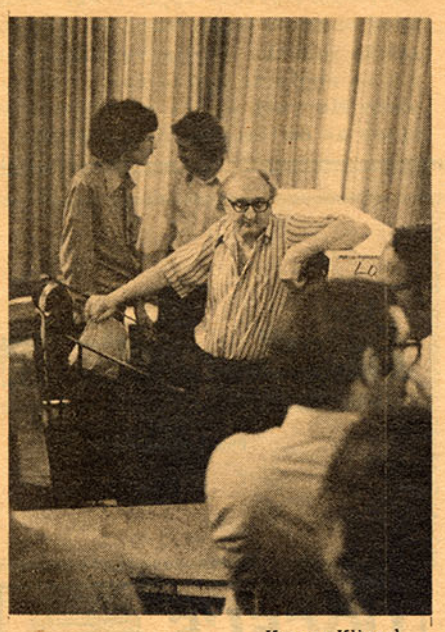
"I don't regret a bit of it," David is quick to remind you, recounting the events that catapulted him almost overnight from a street vendor of paperbacks to the owner of one of the largest bookstores in town, only to end up less than two years later in bankruptcy. The rich experiences packed into this brief span mean a great deal to David and to many of those who worked with him. Still, he has lost his once bustling store. He now collects unemployment checks and is awaiting proceedings which will declare him personally bankrupt.

David Kozubei, now 44 years old, was born in London. His parents had left Russia in 1921 and, after eight years of wandering across Europe, settled in England. Although a pharmacist in Russia, David's father became a rabbi and then Hebrew teacher in London.

An avid reader from early on, David became inspired with the desire to be a great poet at the age of 16, after reading the poems of Gerard Manley Hopkins. Rather than attend a university, he took a variety of jobs to support him while he wrote poetry. But gradually the dream of success as a poet faded, and by his late 20's he was selling books in a bookstore.

From London to Ann Arbor

The bookselling trade suited him well. His broad knowledge of books made him particularly helpful to customers with requests for unusual titles. Eventually David became a salesman in a prestigious art-oriented bookstore in London. It was from that position eight years ago that he was lured to Ann Arbor to manage the new Centicore Bookstore on South University.



Kaaren Klingel

David Kozubei.

David stayed at Centicore for only a short while. After that job he worked for a variety of bookstores in town. His specialty was helping bookstores expand their shelf volume.

Over the years David became dissatisfied with the various bookstores he worked for here in Ann Arbor. He wanted a bookstore with a less predictable and more extensive range of books, accompanied by a relaxed, sit-down-and-read-awhile atmosphere. So he decided to start his own modest bookstore, with an eye to future expansion.

His first efforts as his own boss were in 1973 when he started selling books in boxes set out on the State Street sidewalk close to Gino's. His makeshift bookstore, featuring substantial discounts, was a profitable operation, although the State Street merchants' strenuous objections to his sidewalk operation increased his desire to find permanent quarters.

"On a Rocket Pointed Up"

By the summer of 1974 David was beginning to despair of finding store space. But that August he learned of a store being vacated by the Marilyn Shoppe on Liberty St. The store space available was large, and $3000 was required immediately to secure it. Through friends of friends, David was able to get the needed cash in a mere 24 hours.

At that point, David says,"I was on a rocket pointed up." In short order, he obtained an additional $29,000, enough to furnish the bookshelves and equipment to turn a large space into a large bookstore. Most of the books he ordered were on credit — payment due from one to three months later.

To attract customers, he sold his books for the first six months at a 25% discount. The hefty discount generated considerable business at first, but the resultingly low profits meant he wasn't able to pay off the publishers. Consequently, he couldn't obtain new books from most of the top publishers — an obvious disadvantage in the competitive bookselling business.

Six months after opening on Liberty, the other half of the Marilyn Shoppe was for rent. David's Books was already in shaky financial shape, but David felt that size was the only way to be fully competitive with the other bookstores. So he jumped at the unusual opportunity to rent the adjacent property. In so doing, he doubled his space, but was faced with the expense of added books and cases to fill that space. He was now having to pay $3000 a month for rent alone.

Money Pressures Mount

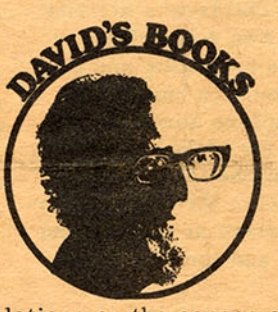
As the months passed, David became increasingly desperate for cash. His early successes in raising money for his fledgling business had at first made him confident of raising the money to pay the increasingly insistent book publishers. But his easy sources of borrowed money dried up as quickly as they had appeared that past August.

By the time David began to seek investors actively, however, his business was already heavily in the red and hardly an attractive proposition to those who might be tempted to buy a part of the business. When the publishers, whose payments were long overdue, finally let loose the collection agencies on David, it was only a matter of time before his business would collapse.

In the meantime, David's rent was partially offset by subletting portions of the store. In this way, Bill's Bindery, Albert's Copying, and The Periodical Retreat came into being. These businesses, after some spatial reshuffling, have continued since the demise of David's Books.

And in the meantime, life at David's Books went on. This life, despite the growing financial tensions, was far from somber. It was filled with happenings — sometimes spontaneous (like the time a troupe of 22 dancers from the University popped over to do their dances), sometimes not so spontaneous (like the professional belly dancer accompanied by Greek band whom David paid $200 to perform).

There were informal poetry readings, musical recitals, and a marathon speed chess championsnip (which set a world's record of over 100 hours of continuous play). Only as as the end grew near, when both David and his employees were aware that it was only a matter of time before bankruptcy had to be declared, did spirits become low.



The speculations on the causes of David's bankruptcy are many, because many people have taken an active interest in his venture. Some say he had too many employees and paid them too much. Some say his initial 25% discount cut too far into his profits. Many say he shouldn't have expanded so quickly to twice his original size. Most everyone who has worked with him views his knowledge of books — especially poetry books — as exceptional. On the other hand, few give him high marks as a businessman.

If you look at David's Books strictly as a business venture, then it would have to be a disaster. Few months showed a profit. Debts consistently mounted. Sales failed to grow.

But there was a kindness, an idealism, and a verve that David brought to this venture which made it a rich experience for the employees and regular patrons of David's Books. There is even talk of a book being written collectively by David and his ex-employees. Whether or not the book is written, David's Books will not be forgotten soon.

As for David's future, that remains uncertain. Currently he is working on a few short-term projects. After that, David says, "We'll just have to see." •

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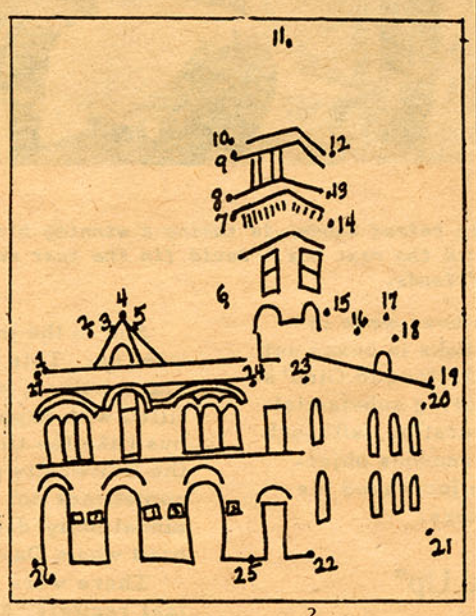
Local History

Ann Arbor's Afro-American History, A Bicentennial Project

The local history of Ann Arbor's Afro-Americans has up to now not been systematically investigated. But the situation should be rectified by a Bicentennial project directed by Dr. Richard English, Carroll McFadden, Willis Paterson, and the Board of Directors of the Ann Arbor "Our Own Thing" organization.

Emphasis will be on major developments in Ann Arbor's Afro-American community: early black settlements and important institutions such as churches and social agencies. A public exhibit of pictures and memorabilia will illustrate the story. •



The book, called A^2 Equals People x People, is meant for fourth through sixth graders. Many adults have enjoyed it, too.

Extension 4-H Youth Agent Beverly Chethik prepared the booklet because the entire County Cooperative Extension Service wanted a Bicentennial project to involve city youth. 4-H clubs used to be only in rural areas; today, mixed clubs of boys and girls are being formed by interested adult volunteers in cities as well.

Copies of the booklet are available free from the Washtenaw Cooperative Extension Service. •

Ann Arbor History In a Kids' Activity Book

A new 4-H children's activity booklet about Ann Arbor history is full of ideas for walks and projects that encourage children to get out and explore some old and interesting parts of town. Among the areas described are Lower Town and Pontiac Street, the Forest Hill Cemetary at Geddes and Observatory, and the Old West Side.

Growing Up in Old Ann Arbor: A Tale Begins

When the memoirs of Herbert T. Wetherbee were read on Ted Heusel's Community Comment program on WPAG last February, they turned out to be one of the most popular features ever aired on the program. Sadly, Mr. Wetherbee died the very morning the first part was read.

Mr. Wetherbee lived in Ann Arbor all his life and worked in the menswear business over fifty years. The firm of Conlin & Wetherbee was located at 118 E. Washington (where Jack's Menswear is today) from about 1925 to 1950.

Blessed with a gift for narration and an excellent memory, Mr. Wetherbee began writing his reminiscences in 1971, at age 85. He related the story of his childhood and youth simply and directly. Life was hard for the Wetherbee family in the days before welfare, unions, unemployment insurance, and job security clauses. His father was a teamster and carpenter whose work was erratic, and Mr. Wetherbee neither sentimentalized nor concealed his family's difficulties.

The Observer is pleased to reprint an abridged version of Mr. Wetherbee's memoirs in nine parts. Ted Heusel suggested the feature; he had learned of the memoirs from Mr. Wetherbee's friend, Bernard Juzwiak, who kindly supplied the Observer with a copy.

By HERBERT T. WETHERBEE

Sitting here in a nostalgic mood, memories start crowding in, encouraging me to make a note of my early life as I have known it, going way back to 1888, two and one half years after I was born, when it seems to me, I began to develop the use of reason in a small way.

I was born in 1886 on the corner of State St. and the River Road (now known as Fuller St.) in the house built by my grandfather, a Civil War veteran, Sgt. Thomas Wosser, Company H, Michigan. I was baptized in the old wooden St. Thomas Church, located on Kingsley St., by Father Van Erp, who was killed when thrown from his buggy on the corner of Kingsley and Division streets.

We were poor, and lived with grandma for a time. My grandfather was a Civil War veteran, serving from 1861 to 1865, and he died sometime before I was born. My grandmother lived alone with her two girls, my mother and my aunt Nell, and my grandmother's brother, an old batch, also a Civil War veteran, 2nd Lt. Michael Clark. He served on the Ann Arbor police force for a few years after the war, then retired, spent his time sitting on the front porch, which had no roof and no railing. He had an old rocker belonging to his mother, great-grandma Clark, and spent his time smoking and reading, when he was not in this old rocker. I would sit in front of the chair, which was also a favorite place for an old cat to sleep. I remember I would fondle the old cat's ears, while munching on a cracker, and go to sleep, at which time grandma would trundle me off to bed.

When the house was built, there was a huge spring in one corner of the cellar (the whole corner was full of springs) around which they built a clay shelf on which grandmother always kept milk, butter, cream, and whatever needed to be kept cool, and from this spring we got all the water used in the house. There was no water system or sewage or electric systems those days. We got our water in a pail and had a dipper from which to get a drink.

On the corner just across the sidewalk was a constantly flowing spring which had its source from grandmother's cellar and the neighbor's house (Mrs. Burns) which also had a spring in the cellar. It was wonderful water and the city put a drinking fountain for horses on the side of the road, and the water was piped to the fountain, where people and animals all used to drink. People came with buckets to carry the water home for drinking and cooking purposes.

In the yard we had four apple trees, a Northwestern, a Rhode Island Greening, a Baldwin, and on the corner a Red Astrakan Harvest apple tree. Students used to come down State St. and throw sticks into the old Harvest apple tree to get an apple or two to eat. I have eaten many Harvest apples but none as luscious as on the tree on the corner. •

Social Notes

An Unusual Wedding

The Reverend Ned Duke of The Universal Life Church officiated at the June 13 wedding of Sabra Briere and Ben Snidecor, co-owners of Graphic Expressions antique print gallery at 118 1/2 W. Liberty. The wedding was held in the gallery, whereupon the wedding party retired to the reception held next door at the Reverend Duke's bar (Mr. Flood's Party). •

A Swabian Celebration

The Schwaebischer Unterstuetzungs Verein of Ann Arbor celebrated the 88th Anniversary of its founding on May 22, 1976. Some 200 Guests arrived at the Schwaben Halle on 213 S. Ashley Street at about 6:00 p.m.

After a brief Speech by President George Sautter, Special Awards were given to John (Hans) Maier for service of 22 years as Secretary and to J. Martin Rempp for service of over 30 years as President. The Awards over, the rest of the Evening was devoted to Dancing to the House Band.

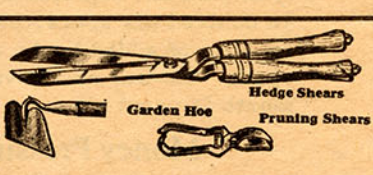
A most enjoyable evening was had by all, including some Friends directly from Germany. The Schwaben Verein has about 130 members, mostly from Swabia (Southern Germany). The Meetings are all conducted in German, and German is the predominant language at Parties and other Social Gatherings.

—Art French •

A Sea Cruise

Gertrude Long, a familiar face at Fischer Hardware for 39 years, recently came back from a 10-day cruise to Bermuda, possibly through the Bermuda triangle, though Mrs. Long doesn't want to think too much about that.

The trip, made with a group from the Senior Citizens' Guild, was Mrs. Long's first sea voyage. She found the cruise "delightful" and was most impressed with the Indonesian and Dutch people she met on board. •



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Culture

Art Association's Renovation Resumes

Progress has resumed in the formidable task of renovating the historic Walker Building at 117 W. Liberty as the home of the Ann Arbor Art Association.

Last week a temporary occupancy permit to use the second floor for classes was granted. Newly-appointed full-time business director Steven Friend has had the mortgage refinanced to continue necessary code work, and the third floor should be in use in a matter of weeks.

A full-time janitor, funded by C.E.T.A., will allow the building to be used more fully for classes.

Renovation is an on-going process, and further donations are still needed to bring the building to its full capacity and finish off the gallery, ground floor offices, and basement and second floor classrooms. The third floor will be rented out as studios. •

Children Can Discuss Poetry

A new children's program on poetry will be held at the Ann Arbor Public Library this summer. Children will explore their own poetry and that of others with poets Tony Klein and Shutta Crum. Films, music, and other art forms will be used throughout the series.

Three separate sessions will be offered for seven weeks beginning July 6 and ending August 19. The schedule for the sessions is as follows:

Tuesdays 10-11, children who have completed grades 1-3.

Thursdays 10-10:45, children age 4 through kindergarten completion.

Register at the Main Library. Enrollment is limited.

This program is being sponsored by the Friends of the Library. •

Culture Notes

Graphic Expressions antique print gallery at 118 W. Liberty has acquired a new stock of over 700 18th and 19th century etchings and engravings, including many European and American travel views. •

Eight new hands (which equals four people) have joined Sixteen Hands, the cooperative crafts shop at 121 W. Washington. Six old hands have left.

Joe and Mark Hippler have replaced woodworker Glen Ernst, who has left for Kentucky. They also bought out Glen's Woodcraft Cabinet Shop at 226 W. Liberty. They plan to specialize in custom-designed hardwood furniture and cedar chests.

Jason Getzen, who makes bronze sculptures and belt buckles, takes the place of painter Susan Nelson, who has headed for California.

Stephanie Gordon steps into the place of Lee Duranzo. Both design and make stained glass windows. •

Ruth Gewanter, secretary of the University Museum (the building on North University with the two black lions on both sides of the entrance) says there are some interesting Bicentennial items for sale in the Museum Shop on the third floor. Along with the usual replicas of original documents, there are a couple of nifty books full of colorful caps and helmets of the American Revolution. which you can cut out and wear. •

At the Art Association

New officers for the Ann Arbor Art Association were elected at the annual meeting May 23. They are Alexis Lahti, 1st vice-president; Dick Buckheim, 3rd vice-president; Terry Adams, treasurer; and Jo Makeever, secretary. Bill Milne and Mary Bachman continue as president and 2nd vice-president. •

Two-week-long summer workshops are being offered at the Ann Arbor Art Association. They meet three times a week. One series begins in mid-July, another in August. For course offerings and schedules, call the Association, 994-8004. •

"Art Start" is a new idea at the Ann Arbor Art Association for inexpensive one-session workshops to introduce people to different techniques and media. Workshops will be held every Tuesday evening and several Saturday morning through August 20. Each session costs $3.00. Subjects will be announced in the Association window, 117 W. Liberty. •

At Art Worlds

Would-be jugglers can learn at James Newton's free Juggling Workshop at Art Worlds, 213 S. Main, on Saturday, July 10, from 1 to 3 p.m. "You don't need the dexterity for juggling that most people think," says Art Worlds Director Cecil Taylor encouragingly. The workshop is not a sample of an Art Worlds course; it's just for fun. •

Photographs by Bill and Karen Dergis (he does nature photography, she does portraits) will be shown at the gallery at Art World Worlds, 213 S. Main, through July 3rd.

Lanny Robbins' interpretive portraits will run from July 14 through the 20th, with a reception for the photographer on Sunday, July 18 at 2 p.m., sponsored by the Ann Arbor Council of the Performing Arts. Robbins' work is large color photographs of groups of artists in settings chosen to reflect their art. •

Events Hot Line

For cultural information about Ann Arbor's social, sports, and cultural events, give the Hot Line of the Ann Arbor Conference and Visitors Bureau a call. The Hot Line phone number is 995-7272. •

A Locally Produced Bestseller May Be in the Making

A new book which was originated, photographed, and published in central Ann Arbor may be on its way to the bestseller lists, if advance sales at the American Booksellers Association convention held recently are any indication.

Giraffe Raps, a collection of often funny, sometimes grotesque and shocking spoof advertisements, is the conception of photographer Terrance Shukle. It was three years in the making. Several of the ads have already appeared in The Periodical Lunch.

When Giraffe Raps was previewed at the big annual booksellers convention, "we sold so many there we had to order a second printing," said editor Warren Hecht. "It was a tremendous sensation, it really knocked the socks off of everybody."

The first printing of the glossy 8 1/2 by 11 1/2 inch paperback was 5000. Giraffe, Inc. published it as an imprint of Street Fiction Press, Inc., headed by Drew Rock, with offices at 201 E. Liberty.

Tom Borders of Borders Book thinks Giraffe Raps will sell "extremely well." Before the official publication date his store sold 35 copies in ten days. "It hit completely cold, with no advance publicity. People came right off the street and liked it."

Why is the book doing so well? It's very visual," Tom Borders said. "This book will get passed around a lot."

Editor Warren Hecht feels that "the book extends the implications of the ads we see on T.V. everyday. It takes the real ads to their ultimate conclusion; it makes the subliminal aspects of those ads explicit."

The publishers plan a fall advertising campaign culminating in a pre-Christmas build-up. Right now the small office of Giraffe/Street Fiction Press is busy shipping the new book to bookstores across the country. "In about two months we'll have an idea of how we're doing," said publisher Drew Rock. •

Giraffe, Inc./Street Fiction Press, Inc.

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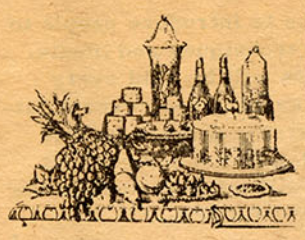

Food & Drink

The Sun Bakery Moves And Expands Its Line

The heart of the Sun Bakery's new quarters on Liberty and Fifth is a 1939-vintage porcelain Faulds oven measuring 11 feet wide by 8 1/2 feet high and 8 1/2 feet deep. The Faulds oven features a six-tray rotary oven.

The Sun Bakery people are going to considerable lengths to change a former drycleaning shop of squatly utilitarian appearance into a hand-crafted attention-getter which incorporates fine old oak doors (some with stained glass windows), hardwood floors, and an elaborate oak wainscoting. Eventually a mural will decorate the Fifth Avenue exterior wall. Jay Simrod of Carpentry Plus is doing most of the work.

The Sun Bakery is gearing up for an expanded trade with the general Ann Arbor community. They started out five years ago on Maynard Street, back in an alley with Eden Organic Foods, as bakers of wholesale whole wheat bread. Now they are diversifying their product line. They will expand their production of pasteries, which Applerose's Julian Moody says are superb.

The Sun Bakery people will also be baking more kinds of breads — German pumpernickel, sour-dough French bread, and rye bread are among the new offerings. Fresh delicacies like Black Forest cherry cake and Napoleon eclairs will also be for sale at their Liberty store.

The new store will be open by the first part of July. •

It's Cool Inside

Air-conditioning, just in time to beat the summer heat, is being installed in the Old Town Bar, 122 W. Liberty, and Mountain High Ice Cream Parlor, 117 W Washington. •

Applerose Goes on TV

Applerose Natural Foods is going on T.V. The store's staff is working on pilot programs of a half-hour on Ann Arbor Cablevision about "good nutrition and related values which promote a quality lifestyle," in the words of Applerose owner Julian Moody.

Initially the show will focus on the needs of senior citizens. A character named Betty Rocker (she rocks in a rocking chair while talking) will be played by a senior citizen. She will show how to cook easy, nutritious meals without using convenience foods and how to cook well for one person.

The style will be homespun, Moody says, and the subject matter down-to-earth. Segments will show how foods are raised, and how you can ask your doctor more worth-while questions. Moody is encouraging suggestions and ideas from interested people about what they'd like to to see. Call him at 769-3040.

Dave Gilbert of Ann Arbor Civic Theater is producing the show; Alan Lutz of the Applerose staff is doing the camera work. •

Ice Cream And Caramel Corn Castle

Carnival food —cotton candy, caramel corn, snow cones, chili dogs, and soft ice cream cones — is again available in central Ann Arbor, and all because of the enterprise of a recent U-M graduate, Murray Rifkin.

Rifkin re-opened the Ice Cream Caramel Corn Castle (Liberty Street, three blocks west of State State) on May 10 and will keep it open (11 a.m.-10 p.m., except Sundays) through September.

The Castle, painted a garish red with white trim and veneer battlements, had been closed for three years before Rifkin took an interest in it this spring. Before 1973 the Castle was run by Tom Clark and his son Tom Jr., until they felt it was too much trouble to continue. Reliable help for the low-budget operation was difficult to get, so the Clarks simply locked it up in 1973 and let it sit.

Rifkin's apartment was just a block away from the Castle, and he passed it daily going to and from classes. But only as graduation this past May drew near and the need for some kind of employment grew more immediate did he see the abandoned Castle in a new light: as a potential business of his own. Beyond making money in the venture, Rifkin (who graduated in the free-form B.G.S. program) seems to have been attracted by the challenge involved: could he, without business experience, make money running a miniature restaurant?

It took five meetings with the Clarks for the persistent Rifkin to get their OK: they would rent him their Castle (along with its diverse equipment) for a flat monthly rate.

In quick order Rifkin obtained his degree and went into business. These first few weeks of operation have been a period of adjustment for him. Learning sources of quality ingredients has required a good deal of leg work. Rifkin has also had to get used to the cramped quarters (9 by 44 feet) and long hours (he is there from 10 in the morning, when he begins by making a fresh batch of caramel corn, until past 10 p.m., when he has to scrub the place down).

Business was discouragingly slow in the cool latter part of May, but has been picking up briskly in the hot days of June. •

Meal of the Month

Dave Sager discusses his favorite meal of tenderloin tips, then digs in.

Round Table's Tenderloin Tips Draw Raves from Dave Sager

Every month the Observer will seek out persons who are especially enthusiastic about meals they have been served in central Ann Arbor restaurants. The meal eliciting the keenest praise will be our Meal of the Month.

When you eat out for lunch as often as Dave Sager does, exotic spices and fried foods begin to pall and irritate the digestion. Good, wholesome home cooking is what he wants. He tells us he gets it at The Round Table at 114 W. Liberty.

Dave, a partner in Fiegel's mens wear on Main Street, has eaten lunch downtown for fifteen years. Monday's special at The Round Table is his favorite meal: braised tenderloin tips on toast, for $1.85 à la carte. Round Table proprietors Evelyn and Maurice Stack both cook the dish. They begin on Sunday by braising the beef in olive oil and beef stock, then marinating it in dark port.

On Monday they cook it again a short while with mushrooms and seasonings (parsley, bay leaves, onion and garlic powder) and then thicken the broth into gravy.

Each day of the week has a special at The Round Table. Tuesday it's pig hocks and sauerkraut, and beef noodle soup. Wednesday features liver and pea soup. Thursday is chicken and biscuits, Friday fish and clam chowder.

Dessert regularly tops off Dave's meals at The Round Table. "Evelyn's unbelievable in desserts," he says. "When I get here at 1:00 p.m., a lot are gone, but at noon you could choose among eight homemade pies. Rice pudding is one of my very favorites. And she makes a real good pineapple upsidedown cake and a bread pudding."

Lunch at The Round Table is a long standing tradition among old Ann Arborites. They used to congregate at the old Round Table at 111 W. Huron, demolished in 1962 for the Ann Arbor Trust parking lot.

Evelyn and her former partner Bill Den Houter moved to W. Liberty, and lawyers, bankers, judges, and business figures continue to frequent the restaurant, attracted by friendly camraderie and good food at reasonable prices. The big round table in the back is a sort of German Stammtisch or regulars' table. The noontime crowd there matches for the dessert of the day by flipping coins. •

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